



State of Washington

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 14-030: COWICHE CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

#### Description of Proposal:

The purpose of this project is to restore floodplain, riparian, and instream processes that will create and maintain habitat for fish and wildlife. Local fish and wildlife planning efforts have identified the Cowiche Watershed as having excellent potential for increasing steelhead and salmon production. Monitoring efforts have documented juvenile salmon, resident salmonids, and spawning coho salmon near the project area. Impacts to floodplain and riparian processes and habitat have been identified as key limiting factors for this watershed and restoring these processes is the purpose of this project.

The goal of the project is to restore instream, riparian, and floodplain habitat. Restoration actions will include the removal of a railroad bed (approximately 1100 feet; 900 feet on right bank, 200 feet on left bank), removal of concrete, riprap, and other debris along 2000 linear feet of the stream, bank reshaping to more natural contours (3:1 in most areas), construction of porous weirs, and reestablishing native riparian and floodplain vegetation throughout the 2000 linear feet and about 1 acre of floodplain. Foreign materials (e.g. concrete) will be disposed of offsite in an approved location. A small setback berm will be constructed on the left bank near the downstream location of railroad bed removal to protect downstream infrastructure. All disturbed areas will be planted with suitable native vegetation.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Contact: Margaret Newman, Executive Director  
PO Box 2211  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
(509) 281-1322  
[fish@midcolumbiarfeeg.com](mailto:fish@midcolumbiarfeeg.com)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Lower Cowiche Creek, 5603 Cowiche Canyon Road, Yakima, Yakima County, Washington: Township 13N, Range 18E, Section 9.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on June 4, 2014**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** May 20, 2014

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 14-030.dns